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Birds of a feather flock together

The Kif-Kif Sisters delighted a large crowd at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton on Saturday as part of Razzamataz theater for wonder. Identical twins Josette and Francoise Lepin, from Quebec, put smiles on childrens' faces with their unique performance which saw bunnies take flight, express French fries and a balloon dance like no other. See more photos on page 9.
/ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

Withdrawal of amendments only a temporary relief to gun owners

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

The federal Liberal government withdrew two amendments to Bill C-21, which would have banned thousands of firearms, on Friday, Feb. 3.

Among those to be banned were rifles used by some hunters. So the withdrawal

may have offered some temporary relief to hunters and sport shooters, but many are still apprehensive about the future.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre said the decision came after he and his team had pressured Justin Trudeau's government to temporarily back down from their proposed amendments.

Leader of the Government in the House of Commons Mark Holland said in a

statement Friday, "More work had to be done to hear from Indigenous communities and Canadians across the board. It is absolutely critical that this bill get adopted and that they take handguns off our streets and assault-style weapons, and there are a couple of items that we still need to have conversations about that were contained in the amendments."

The two amendments were unexpect-

edly announced in November of 2022 and faced strong opposition from hunters, shooters, the Assembly of First Nations, New Democrats and western provinces.

Canada's Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said they will attempt to reintroduce the prohibitions in either more amendments to C-21 or a new law, meaning gun owners may not be in the clear for

see HUNTERS page 3

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Take a hike

Hike Haliburton guide Heather Reid gives instructions before a group of 15 begins the full moon snowshoe at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, Feb. 4. Abbey Gardens was one of many places offering hikes as part of the winter edition of Hike Haliburton Festival. While the night was cloudy, hikers did catch a glimpse of the snow moon once the trek was over. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



A group of 15 people braved the frigid cold to partake in Hike Haliburton over the weekend by taking on a full moon snowshoe hike through Abbey Gardens.



Goats, chickens, ducks, and a rabbit were the main feature of the Hike Haliburton hike held at Bethel Heights Farm. / EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



Katie Cox led a one kilometre hike around Bethel Heights Farm before wrapping up with a visit to the animals, where visitors fed goats, chickens, ducks, and an extra snuggly rabbit. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



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Irv Handler and Cara Oleksuk led a Hike Haliburton hike on the Circuit of 5 Viewpoints in Algonquin Highlands. /Submitted by Irv Handler

Land Trust to offer Discovery Days thanks to grant

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is pleased to announce that Land Trust Discovery Days will be offered in 2023 thanks to a grant of \$7095 from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and our HHLT volunteer committee.

Land Trust Discovery Days is a series of educational events held through the year at various locations in Haliburton County. We hope to educate people of

all ages, particularly our youth, about the species, land and water that are in need of protection and conservation. Our events are family friendly and most are offered by donation.

Our first event of 2023 is a live Speaking of Wildlife presentation to be held at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery on Saturday, Mar. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wildlife experts from Speaking of Wildlife and

their animal ambassadors will offer fun facts through this interactive presentation. Tickets must be purchased in advance of this at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or by calling our office at 706-457-3700. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and \$35 for a family.

Future programs include the Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk, Plein Air Painting, a Geology Walk and more. All registration

and event information will be posted on our website as events are confirmed.

Along with these public events, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant will also fund a project to create a virtual tour of our trails. More information to follow soon.

Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

Hunters worried for the future

from page 1

long.

Among millions in the country are plenty of local hunters and shooters including Keith Cunningham, retired Canadian Forces military captain, and Linda Miller, both owners of MilCun Training Centre in Minden.

The Bill was created to be a "comprehensive strategy to address gun violence," states the Canadian government, but the avid sport shooters said it has not made an impact on street crime.

"Banning hunting rifles that have been used for a hundred years does not contribute to the safety of Canadians," Cunningham and Miller said in an email to the *Echo*. "Yes, of course we can use another firearm that's not on the banned list, but why would we need to? There are nearly three million law abiding gun owners in Canada. If we were the problem, it'd be obvious."

Bill C-21 proposes a number of amendments to the Firearms Act in the Canadian Criminal Code and originally

focused on handguns before the introduction of the amendments to prohibit certain rifles.

"We have the same comments for all the other firearms in C-21 and the 2020 Order in Council (OIC) firearm bans as we do for withdrawing of these two amendments: this hasn't diminished crime in the big cities," Cunningham and Miller said.

They said those who will be impacted most if new restrictions go forward in the future, are hunters and other law-abiding gun owners. It has strained Cunningham and Miller's business along with those who attend their courses or have similar operations.

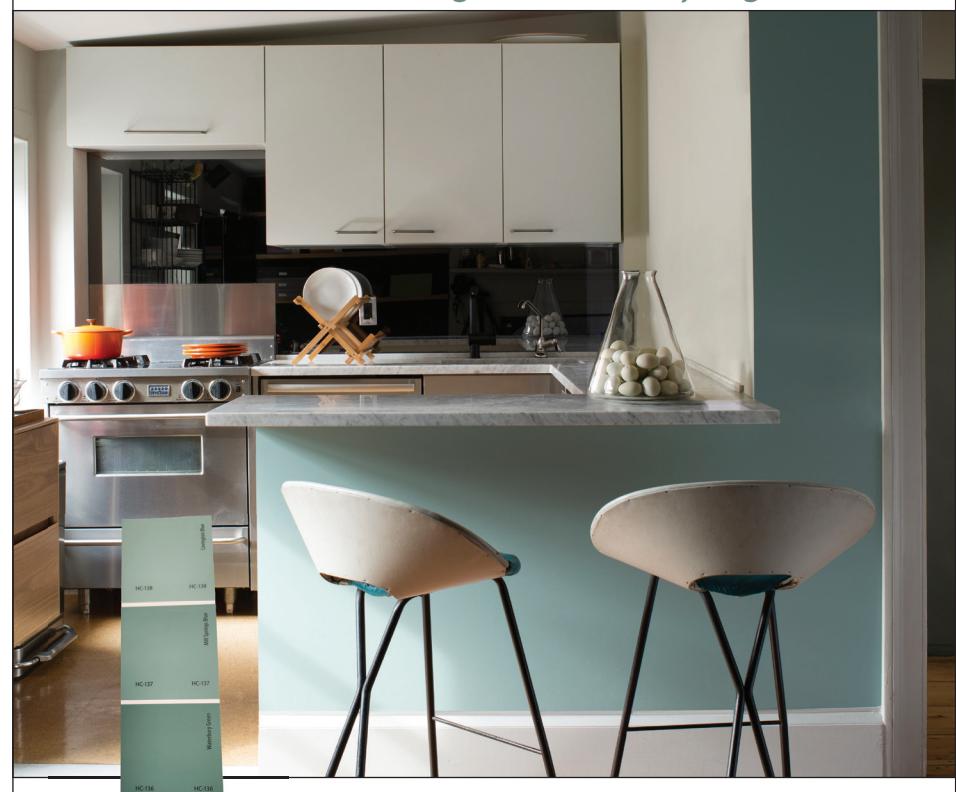
"We run marksmanship courses for both law-abiding gun owners and police/military. We are a centre of excellence for developing marksmanship skills. The OICs and the legislation are strangling our business. Not only are there fewer courses we're able to offer to competitors, we are also at risk of being able to maintain a centre of excellence for police and military," Cunningham and Miller said.



A day at the races

Gerrit Kooistra in car number 32 and Dustin Brown in car number 167 speed around the corner of the Minden Ice Racing track during a qualifying race on Saturday, Feb. 4. Hosted by the Minden Kin Club at the Minden Fairgrounds, Feb. 4 and 5 was the first weekend for the races in 2023. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Make room for creativity with this combination of paints, they are a refreshing hue in any light.



Seniors day is the last Thursday of each month.

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Harcourt rink open for skating

The Haliburton County Huskies play a game with community members at the grand opening of the outdoor skating rink in Harcourt on Sunday, Feb. 5. The event featured skating with members of the Haliburton County Huskies, kids skating and hockey skills, and s'mores. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Community members roast marshmallows by the fire at the grand opening of the outdoor skating rink in Harcourt

Draft budget has HE residents face 2.05% tax increase

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East's first-draft budget has ratepayers paying an extra 2.05 per cent on their tax bill this year.

That equated to \$525.40 in 2023 over last year's tax rate. That means an extra \$10.54 for the average home assessed at \$100,000.

The 2.05 per cent represents an overall municipal increase of \$183,932 in capital and operating costs over those in 2022. The purse for 2023 at this early stage in the budget process would be \$6.9 million.

Brittany McCaw, the township's deputy CAO/treasurer, presented the financial blueprint when town council met during a special meeting Jan. 31.

McCaw said it was anticipated that this would be a difficult year for setting a budget. Costs have risen incredibly across the board. Given that, she said, municipal staff have managed to find ways to trim

costs without hindering services.

"We are on target to come in under budget for the 2022 year," she said.

Money from reserves in the current budget is funds that had been earmarked for uncompleted projects in previous years.

Some of the money being brought forward in 2023 was for such projects as \$25,000 to engage an architect to design the municipal office; \$25,000 from digitizing files to the Records Management SDR project; \$10,000 to engage the services of the integrity commissioner, should the need arise.

The corporate strategic plan in 2023 will require \$25,000 from the Working Fund Reserve.

Public Works has asked for \$100,000 for maintenance and repairs of bridges and culverts. Specifically, the department asked for \$55,000 for Gooderham Dam, \$20,000 for Hadlington Bridge, and \$25,000 for Donroy culverts.

Just some of the capital projects on

the horizon in 2023 include work on McColls Bridge (\$400,000), Inlet Bay Road (\$40,000), Gem Road (\$40,000), Upper Paudash Road (\$50,000), Buxton Road (\$76,000), Pioneer Road (\$240,000), Earles Road culvert (\$270,000).

A business case has been prepared for council for an addition or new build of a roads garage as opposed to operating two separate garages and renovating.

Some of this year's other initiatives include \$100,000 for the design build of the new municipal office, \$50,000 for the strategic plan, \$25,000 for records management SDR, and climate change initiatives will cost \$25,000.

McCaw said a business case has been prepared for council for a single municipal office as opposed to operating three separate offices. She said there are inefficiencies in maintaining three buildings.

"We also have the function of the managers working out of three buildings," she said. "It's really difficult as staff to manage when you're not all together."

A single building will save on energy costs, maintenance, and will reduce the number of municipal assets. Reducing assets means less money that needs to sit in reserve funds to cover the future replacement of those assets.

Everybody under one roof allows for cross-training which will prove beneficial to meeting future staffing needs, she said.

"It will also be a benefit to the public," McCaw said.

“

We are on target to come in under budget for the 2022 year.

— Highlands East CAO/treasurer Brittany McCaw

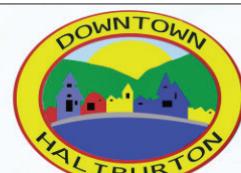
The current three buildings could then be turned into future housing.

The draft budget includes an increase for municipal staff and council to attend conferences now that such sessions have returned after the global COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

Speaking of travel costs, Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said the reimbursement per kilometre increased from 45 cents a kilometre to 61 cents per kilometre. He asked if the treasury had taken that rise into account.

"We looked at last year's budget and it was quite low and we did increase the mileage account for 2023, understanding that there would be more travel and in-person meetings," McCaw said.

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A bittersweet ending to 'Pancake Tuesday' dinner

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Members of St. George's Anglican Church have made the tough decision to end an almost-century-old tradition in Haliburton.

The Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner had brought together generations of Haliburtonians with lively music, delicious flapjacks, and candid camaraderie for 84 years.

"This would've been our 85th, and I feel sad, but we can't do it anymore, so we just have to bite the bullet and do something different," said Shrove Tuesday organizer Louise Sisson.

At their last dinner in Feb. 2020, just weeks before COVID-19 shutdowns reached the Highlands, 52 volunteers served over 400 meals to the community and raised \$3,000 for Places for People.

"That's a lot of pancake flippin'," Sisson laughed.

With a smaller in-person congregation since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns about a low turnout due to caution around the spread of illness, they weren't able to muster up enough volunteers.

"When I look at our congregation, our average age is 75, and when I asked for volunteers, I only got 15 people that said they would work at it. It's a very long day and a very stressful day for feeding that many people," Sisson said. "We just had to rethink how we were doing it. I know they would like to see an actual supper, but you've got to get realistic. We can't do it."

Instead of raising money for a local charity at a physical supper, the congregation is collecting donations for the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton in the name of Shrove Tuesday.

"What they really need is money. They need money to help with the cost of food for so many people," Sisson said.

Though it was a lot of work to put together a meal to feed hundreds each year, volunteers have an abundance of happy memories.

Amid melting ice cream, the smell of pancakes on the grill, and sticky, syrupy tables, Sisson recalls a Legion filled with joyful chatter and laughter.

"The noise was unbelievable in that hall. But it was a happy noise," she said.

Bill Gliddon, organist at St. George's Anglican Church, said although it was usually the only time of the year he ate pancakes, he loved getting to witness the community come together the most.

"I loved the event. It was such a great community event, and we all loved it. The whole community seemed to turn out every time, and there's nothing like food to bring people together," Gliddon said.

He would bring his keyboard from home to each supper, and recalled all of the past locations of the pancake dinner.

Gliddon remembers when the supper started out at the town hall and then moved in to the basement of St. George's Anglican Church, which held very few people.

Sisson began volunteering for the Shrove Tuesday supper in 1976 cutting up pies in the Sunday school room of the church.

It then moved to the Orange Hall for several years before the supper outgrew that space, too.

The final place for the Shrove Tuesday dinner was in the Hall at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129.

"When the actual dinner came, I would go there about half an hour early and just play background music on my keyboard just to give a nice festive atmosphere to the event. People seemed to like it, so that's what I did," he said.

Gliddon laughed and said he went without eating anything until the very end each year because his fingers were so busy playing favourite familiar tunes.

"I was sure ready to eat my pancakes by the end," he said.

In an article written by Martha Perkins in 1998 about the 58th anniversary of the tradition, she highlighted the origin of Shrove Tuesday.

Historically, the customary ringing of the "shriving bell" called people to the church to be shriven: to confess their sins at the beginning of Lent.

Certain foods weren't eaten during Lent, so eggs, milk, butter, and meat were finished beforehand, which resulted in delicious meals of special pancakes.

After the savoury and sweet meal, some would get up to sing and dance.

The church relied on volunteer students in the past to help push dessert plates and serve tea and coffee.

"As of right now, I can't see it happening again



It took just 10 minutes for more than 150 people to come to the St. George's Anglican Church 81st annual Pancake Supper on Feb. 25, 2020 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. /FILE

because we don't have the young people to do it, and I know we're not alone that way," Sisson said.

To donate to St. George's Anglican Church fundraiser for the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton, you can E-transfer office@haliburtonanglican.ca.

Be sure to add in the comments that the donation is for Shrove Tuesday, and a name and address must be provided if a charitable receipt is required.

Donations can also be made through Canada Helps: www.haliburtonanglican.org/how-to-donate.

"We're going to miss it so much," Gliddon said.



Haliburton resident Bill Gliddon performed, providing entertainment to the people, who attended the St. George's Anglican Church 81st annual Pancake Supper in 2020. /FILE

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

An aging population of volunteers

ST. GEORGE'S Anglican Church has decided to end their Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner after hosting it for almost a decade.

For the past two years, it was cancelled due to COVID-19 health measures with the hope of returning as soon as it could safely be held again.

This year, it's cancelled because of wanting to avoid the spread of illness, yes, but also because of a different epidemic: A lack of young volunteers.

The average age of their congregation is 75.

Lots of those people have been involved in the event for decades.

The ending of the pancake dinner is sad, but we can't expect the same volunteers to put in long hours of physical work to make it happen.

It's certainly time to pass the tradition along.

But, where is the willingness of the next generation?

When I talked to the organizer Louise Sisson, she said they are not the only ones facing this shortage of willing young people.

From what I've seen, she's right.

It's a big problem everywhere in Haliburton County and the country as a whole.

My very first editorial was for *County Life* several months ago. It was called *You get what you give*, and I wrote it about the importance of volunteering for one's health.

It's good for our mental health as individuals to use our own skills and abilities to help others, but volunteerism is crucial to the health of the community, too.

Volunteers are the ones that make these big community events happen.

These events are enjoyed by all generations. They're meant to bring everyone together.

The Highland Yard annual running event was just passed down to Rota-



vivian collings

Editorial

people I went to public school with have moved back to the area and are here to stay, which is so great.

But we need to volunteer if we want to keep our big events going.

Looking back on the past summer, it was service clubs that made all of our favourite things happen like concerts and carnivals.

The average Rotarian is 58. The average Lion is 57.

What would Haliburton be without the vibrancy of these events hosted by these groups and many others?

Not only do they keep us close and encourage connection, but they also attract visitors that contribute to our tourism sector.

Volunteer-run events are the heart of the community, and we can't let them fade away.

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A frosty tree on a clear winter day. /Submitted by Michael Rayas

Heat

THE SMOKE started billowing into the living room. Clouds and clouds of thick grey was rapidly filling the corner of Mark's living room where the wood stove sat. He tried not to panic. But he didn't know what to do. Of course the smoke alarm began blaring, and that only added to the chaos. Then his alarm went off.

What a dream, he thought as he padded into the kitchen to start coffee. While it had been a dream this time, there actually had been just such a fire years before, when he first started using wood heat. He reminded himself how far he had come in the meantime. Hauling and splitting wood. And most important – having the stove pipe cleaned yearly.

When he first moved to the country, Mark had a bit of a "know it all" attitude. After all, he had been a cottager for decades so he figured he knew everything he needed to know about living in a rural environment. He had even spent the occasional winter weekend at the cottage, picking away at a small chord of firewood he had bought from a local guy. But back then, he had chosen mild weekends, and the cottage stove was rarely used. It was different when he moved out of the city and into a house on a sideroad.

Once he got the knack of wood heat, Mark fell in love with this method of warding off winter's frigid blast. It was so basic, he thought. What an incredible day it must have been when our ancient ancestors discovered fire. Everything changed. Sort of like the computer revolution, he chuckled. Everything changed.

Now people could turn on their furnace from work or their car. So using a wood stove was hardly the only choice Mark had in the modern era. But he preferred it. It reminded him that he was a human animal with fundamental needs like heat. It wasn't complicated, and the rules were simple and straight-forward. And he, not

some distant expert or authority, was in charge of it. This was not a common occurrence in the rest of his life.

It was a perfect winter morning, and Mark decided to go for a walk before settling down to do some work around the house. There was a cold wind, and he could feel it bite into his skin. But he pulled up his hood over his toque and set out. It had snowed the night before, but the snow plow had already smoothed the road's surface, and the sun sparkled on everything. It was invigorating and calm. Although he lived on a township road, there were few year-round neighbours and hardly any cars.

What Mark didn't realize at first was that beneath the freshly plowed roadway was sheer ice and sure enough, down he went. Hard. In fact he managed to hit his head when he landed as well as twist his ankle. Rubbing his head with a mitten hand, he started to get up but then felt the pain. It shot up his leg. Darn, he thought. Home was about half a mile back the other way. If this was summer, he'd probably find a stick or something to lean on as he walked but now everything was covered in snow.

And it was very cold. Once he stopped walking, he could really feel the wind. It bit into him like a ravenous, frigid demon. Now Mark was getting a little nervous. People froze to death in this kind of weather, and though he didn't want to over-react, he knew he had to get home. Just then Jim his neighbour came along in his pick-up and stopped. Jim could see immediately that Mark wasn't in good shape. After helping him into the truck, Jim drove him home.

The wood stove had never looked so good to Mark as he hobbled into the living room and hung up his coat. He'd get an ice pack in a little while, but right then and there, all he wanted was heat. A basic necessity for any cold creature.

Down



sharon lynch

Our road

points of view

Going mobile

I bought a cell phone later than most. If the truth were to be told, I thought they were going to be just a passing trend.

I was certain the old phone inventors would compete by adding a compact Polaroid camera to their products. Or a blender. Because, frankly, a blender has as much to do with a phone as a camera used to. Either of those things, I thought, would have rendered the cell phone redundant.

I was wrong though.

Cell phones quickly rendered our old land line phones obsolete.

But I will say this. It wasn't about cameras or even blenders. It was about mobility.

And we land line users were the ones that drove phone designers to this.

You see, there was a time when humankind was perfectly happy with short, coiled phone cords between the phone base and receiver.

Admittedly, those were simpler times. Back then no one cared about missing incoming phone calls or being out of touch. In fact, that was preferable. We knew callers would call back later if it was important enough.

We also did not care that our phones were incapable of placing all the accumulated knowledge of the world at our fingertips. We were happy that some things in life, such as the exact speed of a fart, remained a mystery.

My how times have changed. (It's 10 feet per second!)

I believe it began when our sisters got boyfriends.

You see that's when the need for actual mobile phones began.

For unless your sister had a phone in her room, she would try to pull the phone receiver and cord away from the family as soon as her boyfriend called. My own sister would practically pull the phone off the wall in order to position herself as far away from prying ears as possible, whenever her beau called.

I'm not sure why she didn't want us in on the calls. My brother and I had good relationship advice to offer. And it's not like we were mean to her boyfriend "The Squirrel."

Regardless, fathers, like my own, eventually realized that the phone and wall it was attached to could only take so much, so they started buying longer phone cords. And the market obliged.

It was harmless at first. It started with 10-footers, so your sister could take the call, which sometimes lasted as long as 26 hours, into the next room.

Eventually, however, as the bond deepened, longer cords were required. It seemed like a good idea too. I mean, there was a point where my brother and I would have gladly contributed cold, hard cash towards the purchase of a 240-foot cord, if that's what it would take to keep us from hearing the hours-long, "I love you - I love you more" exchanges that were the low point of these relationships.

But as much as long cords solved these problems, they also caused problems of their own.

Which is to say they left a wake of destruction in their path. Table and floor lamps, flower vases, end tables, anything on the coffee table, small children, cats and other curious pets – all these things and more would get knocked over or caught up in the vortex of cord that ran between the phone base and receiver.

It got to the point where phone cord technology had reached its limits of safety.

I remember seriously considering gnawing my arm off after getting caught in a 20-footer when no one was home. It wasn't that long after, we decided to cut the cord.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

Reverend George Roland Finch (1867-1939), of the Haliburton Baptist Church, 1906-1918 stands with his horse, which he used to make his ministerial circuit outside of the village. This included services up on Parish Line, Donald, West Guilford, Harburn, Ingoldsby, and Lochlin. Because of the social problems he witnessed over the course of his ministry at various postings, he was a strong supporter of the temperance movement of his day. The extent of his influence locally is not known but, in 1910, Dysart residents voted to go dry. This meant the outlawing of the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the municipality. This remained in effect until the establishment of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario outlet in Haliburton Village in the late 1950s. /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

letters to the editor

Thanks to local police officers

To the Editor,

At a time when we are hearing and reading so much negativity about police officers, I would like to share something positive.

Recently, I was trying to reach out to a family member who I hadn't heard from in several years. Not knowing how to go about finding a missing family member, I contacted our local OPP detachment, left a message and the very next morning received a return phone call from PC Allanson. She asked me some questions about my missing

family member and said she would be in touch. Some hours later, my phone rang, and it was my missing family member alive and well. So my heartfelt thanks to PC Allanson and the RCMP from a far away place.

The next time I hear negativity, I will remember one good officer who made life better for an old guy who needed some help. Thank you PC Allanson.

Chuck Viner
Gooderham

OPP raises awareness of scams

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are launching a fraud prevention campaign, Feb. 6 to 10, 2023, to raise awareness about the significant increase in emergency-grandparent scams targeting Canadian seniors.

In 2022, the CAFC received fraud reports totalling a staggering \$530 million in victim losses. This was nearly a 40 per cent increase from the 2021 unprecedented \$380 million in losses.

Fraudsters target anyone and everyone, particularly the vulnerable and seniors. In 2022, more than \$9.2 million was reported lost to emergency scams, according to the CAFC. This was a drastic increase from \$2.4 million in 2021.

Ontario was the province impacted most with over \$5.4 million in reported losses.

It is estimated that only five to 10 per cent of victims report scams and fraud to the CAFC or law enforcement.

Emergency scams, including variations called "grandparent scams," use urgency and the manipulation of emotions to extort money from victims. In these scams, fraudsters cold call seniors, on landline phones, claiming to be a grandchild, family member, law enforcement officer or lawyer calling on behalf of their loved one. They'll say that the person's loved one was involved in an emergency situation, such as a collision, charged by law enforce-

ment, legal peril, being sick or injured, etc. They demand the senior provide payment immediately for supposed bail, legal fees, fines or other amounts "owed" to stop the family member from going to jail or to get them released from custody. This is a scam.

The fraudsters isolate the victims by informing them that there is a court-imposed gag order, and they're forbidden from discussing the matter. The victims are directed to attend their financial institution to withdraw the requested amount in cash. The fraudsters will then send someone to pick it up from the victim's home or have the victim send the money via courier services. There have also been reports of victims paying with cryptocurrency.

Take action

Join the RCMP, CAFC and OPP in raising awareness from February 6-10, 2023. The partners will be posting social media tips, bulletins, and various other resources.

If you fall victim to a fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime and also report it to the CAFC at 1-888-495-8501 or online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS), even if a financial loss did not occur.

If you know a senior or have an elderly family member, please reach out to them and have a conversation on what to do if they get a phone call like this and consider coming up with a code word.



Elinor Hamilton, 93, now lives in the Gardens of Haliburton after being one of the first cottagers on Kushog Lake in the 1950s. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



One of Hamilton's favourite activities is colouring.

A new feature series: Humans of the Highlands

'Spread the joy,' says Elinor Hamilton

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Elinor Hamilton has lived 93 glorious years of life so far, but her spirit is as young as those in the school yard across the lake from her living room window.

It's no surprise that the always-positive, quick-witted, and fabulously sweet Gardens of Haliburton resident has focused on one thing for her whole life; spreading joy.

Born in Toronto, Elinor has four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Some words used to describe her by family and friends in a scrapbook of her life include: compassionate, helper, funny, generous, intelligent, warm, elegant, mentor, adventurer.

She is certainly all of those and so much more, based on the stories she shared with the *Echo*.

Hamilton was first introduced to the Highlands in the 1950s when her husband bought a piece of property on Kushog Lake in Carnarvon, one of first at a now-full lake.

"There were only three people on the lake at that time. We'd go out on a Sunday boat ride and maybe only see two other people."

At the time, there was no road to the north side of the lake.

"We'd drive to the Narrows, park the car, and rent a boat to get to our property, and it took us 25 minutes in the boat," she said.

She laughed recalling the time when her husband and his friends built the cottage, they didn't have a level, so they used a saucer with water.

"18 year old kids with a hammer, some nails, and a saucer full of water? Oh my. And the wood was so fresh, that two years later, the wood had started to dry, so when you swept the floor, you didn't need a dust pan because of the cracks and knot holes," Hamilton said.

She said for a while, each year they would see a campfire at a different spot on the lake, signalling a new property owner had arrived.

"Our children were always looking for others to play with at the cottage," she

said.

Half of the thrill of arriving to the cottage at night was seeing whose lights were twinkling in the distance across the lake.

Even though the Hamilton family lived in the suburbs of Welland in the Niagara Region, she said the friendships made at the little cottage on Kushog were incomparable.

"The people there became more friends to you than your friends back at home because you were with them from morning to night."

Eventually, when Hamilton and her husband came to retirement age, they decided the cottage wasn't suitable to live in year-round, so they bought a farm on the south side of the lake, big enough to store snowmobiles, tractors, and grow large gardens.

Many of her immediate family now has cottages in Haliburton County.

"I'm ever so grateful to my 17 year old husband in the 50s for buying that lot on Kushog Lake which started the whole thing," she said.

Hamilton was a member of the Doers Club and volunteered at her church. She devoted much of her time while living in the Highlands to the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

"Because I didn't have any encumbrances, when they wanted to go to, say, the Cottage Life Show, if any of the business people went from up here, they'd have to leave their business, so I went instead, stayed the whole ten days, and had a ball," Hamilton said.

At age 73, one of the activities included at an event was a rock climbing wall, which Hamilton climbed, of course.

"We had such fun, but we were exhausted," she said.

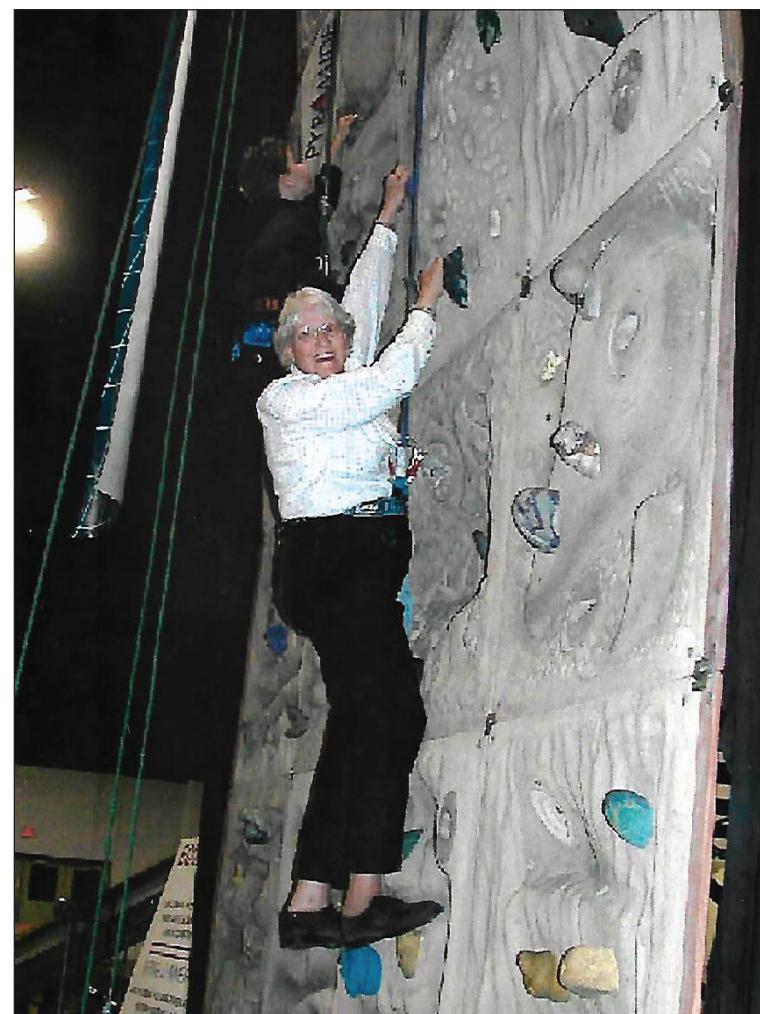
Hamilton seized every opportunity she could.

"If lessons of any type came by, I took them. I wouldn't trade any of my experiences for all the tea in China," she said.

With her strong desire to always know more, she was completely absorbed in the Watergate Scandal of 1972.

"I very much wanted to see everything to do with it. I was refinishing a piece of furniture, so I moved the television out to the garage where I was busy."

The weather was good at the time, so



Hamilton climbs a rock wall at the Outdoor Adventure Show in 2003. /Photo submitted

her children were swimming at friends houses but needed a ride home before dinner.

"I told them to call me when they needed to be picked up, and I would come during a commercial. Nothing would stop me from watching Watergate, not even my children," she laughed. "You had to be ready when I got there. No saying goodbye to your friends, because I wasn't about to miss it."

She continues to watch the news on TV each day.

For Hamilton, learning and teaching should always go hand in hand.

She learned how to sew, knit, embroider, weave, upholster, took creative writing classes, and took every travel oppor-

tunity.

"Don't just keep it to yourself, come home and teach it to somebody else," she said.

Her generosity still shows through her everyday activities, like embroidering squares to be made into Afghans for the Minden United Church to give to first responders for people in emergency situations.

She enjoys her down time by drawing in colouring books and putting together puzzles.

Hamilton's life advice is to "take every opportunity to learn. Even if you don't think you're ever going to use it. And always spread the joy, wherever you go."



A team from High Park curling club competes for the trophy in the Todd's Invitational Mixed Bonspiel hosted by the Haliburton Curling Club on Sunday, Feb. 5.



Hurry hard

A Northumberland curler throws a rock during the Todd's Invitational Mixed Bonspiel hosted by the Haliburton Curling Club on Sunday, Feb. 5. The two-day event hosted 16 teams from across the province, was made possible by 40 volunteers, and has been a tradition at the Haliburton club for 33 years. Raffle prizes were provided by local businesses and community members. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Curlers from Northumberland sweep during their final game in the Todd's Invitational Mixed Bonspiel hosted by local businesses and community members.



Using an electric fan, the twins dice up a cucumber while seven-year-old Georgie Stewart attempts to catch the flying chunks of vegetable.



It takes two to juggle

The Kif-Kif Sisters work together to juggle pink umbrellas in front of a large crowd at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton on Saturday, Feb. 5 as part of Razzamataz theater for wonder. The identical twins Josette and Francoise Lepin, from Quebec, put smiles on children's faces with their unique performance which saw bunnies take flight, express French fries and a balloon dance like no other. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

Crossword brought to you by

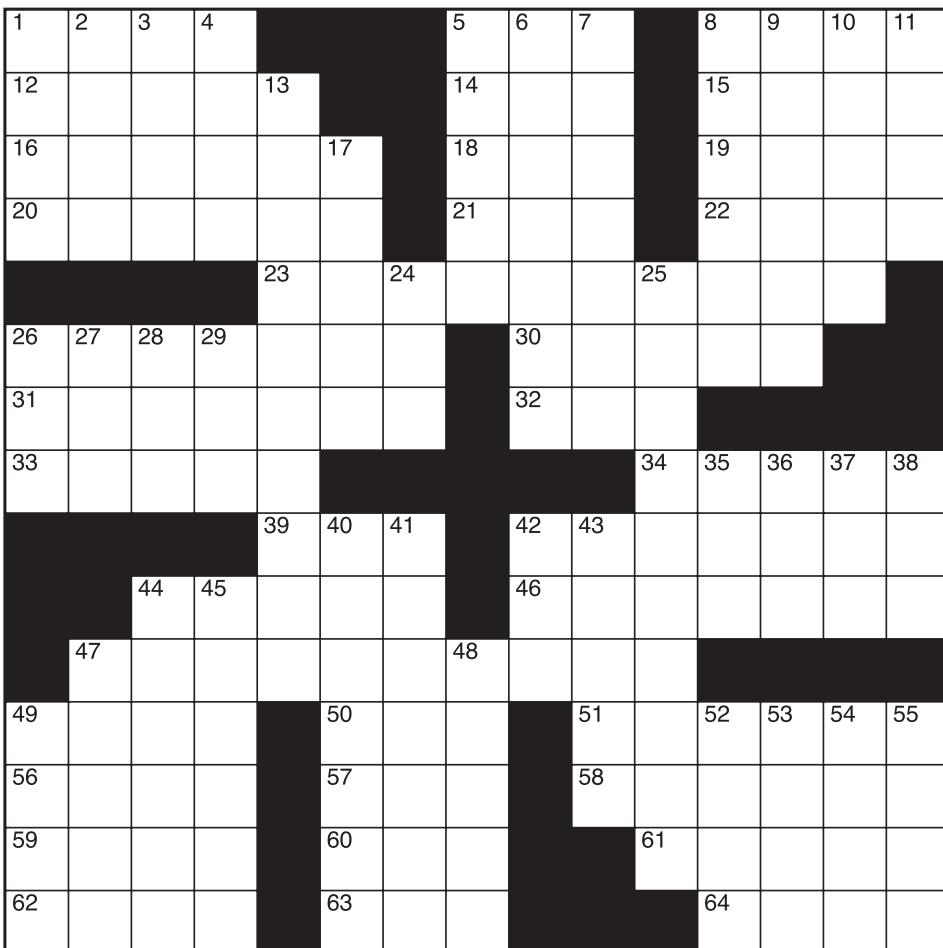
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"Out Standing In Our Field"



**RE/MAX
PROFESSIONALS
NORTH**



CLUES ACROSS

- River in Tuscany
- A way to represent
- Rocker's guitar
- Civil Rights group
- Brew
- Scratch
- W. Asian country
- The Eye Network
- Clarified butter
- Part of the Cascade Range
- Downwind
- A way to steer
- Loop
- Not ingested
- Swampy coniferous forest
- Musician
- Signing
- Containing iron
- Part of a theorem or proof
- Veterans battleground (slang)
- Of enormous proportions
- Italian city
- Come before
- Balm
- Undergarments
- Male parent
- Ropes
- Ear part
- Investment vehicle
- Dictator
- Cain and __
- A type of code
- Border river along India and Nepal
- It's what's for dinner
- Consume
- Christian __, designer

CLUES DOWN

- Cuckoos
- Skin issue
- City in central Japan
- Sorrels
- Twinned diamond
- Canadian province
- Monetary units
- Head honcho
- Goddess of wisdom
- Part of a play
- Get rid of
- Applicant
- Bowling alleys have many
- Explosive
- "The Say Hey Kid"
- Ultrahigh frequency
- No (Scottish)
- Make a mistake
- Credit card term
- Keyboard key
- Woman (French)
- In the middle of
- Score perfectly
- Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- Deadly disease
- A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- Belch
- Member of U.S. Navy
- 'In __': separate from others
- Examine extensively
- Adjust
- Tattle
- Actor Pitt
- Gulls
- Within
- Exceptionally talented performer

Answers on page 12



After more than 20 years on the Haliburton BIA executive, chair Luke Schell is stepping down from the volunteer committee this week at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 9. Schell has served as a vice-chair and chair for more than 15 years and is proud of the work the executive has accomplished during his tenure. /Photo submitted

Schell bids farewell to BIA after long tenure

ANGELICA INGRAM

Special to the Echo

For more than 20 years, Luke Schell has been a fixture in the downtown of Haliburton Village, and not just as the business owner of a specialty photo and framing shop.

For almost the same length of time he owned his business, Schell was a volunteer on the executive of the Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA).

However as Schell embarks on a new chapter, that being retirement, he is also bringing to an end his involvement with the BIA, which includes more than 15 years serving as chair of the executive.

Born in Haliburton, Schell has deep roots in the area, with ancestry that goes back multiple generations. However just after he was born, his family moved north of Sault Ste. Marie, and it was there where he lived until his teenage years, at which point he moved once again to Huntsville. He eventually made his way back to Haliburton when he was in his late teens.

He had a variety of careers throughout his life, but it was his photography skills that opened up opportunities at a local print business, one that he eventually purchased in 1995.

"When I was first bought my business I was invited to join in on a BIA meeting," said Schell.

At that time, Schell was working long hours and had a young family, so he passed on the invitation but never lost interest.

He joined the volunteer committee in 2000 and served as a member for a few years before being promoted to vice-chair. Then a few years later he became chair of the executive, a position he took over from past chair Bob Park. He spent the next 15-16 years serving in that role.

"It's not like anything I had ever done before," said Schell. "But I've always been a people person. And that's what this is."

Schell's love for people and Haliburton Village runs deep, and it was that combination that made him a perfect fit as BIA chair. He can think of various accomplishments during his time with the executive, however he points to the people he worked with and their dedication to the downtown as the one that stands out the most.

"One of my proudest achievements is the BIA committee and the cohesiveness

of it," said Schell. "I just feel like it's this incredible committee where everyone gets along and everyone is interested in the same thing for the right reasons."

Other BIA accomplishments Schell reflects on include the construction of the Skateboard Park, the downtown Streetscape, multiple successful events and helping to create a beautiful village.

Schell will miss hanging flower baskets and laughing with his committee members around a table, but he still plans on doing some volunteering with the group when he can.

Current BIA vice-chair David Zilstra will miss those lighthearted meetings and the way Schell brought people together.

"He kept things fun and his passion for the downtown was admirable," says Zilstra. "It's a committee that works together for the betterment of Haliburton and Luke is a big part of that. What I will miss most about him leaving is working alongside him on projects like hanging flower baskets and fall decorations. He was never afraid to pound the pavement."

Similar sentiments are shared by other executive members, including Brandon Nimigon.

"Luke's commitment to the community is something we should all strive for," said Nimigon. "He's passionate, dedicated and enthusiastic about everything Haliburton and its future. It's hard to imagine a BIA meeting without him. He'll be missed!"

Former BIA Administrator Gail Stelter worked alongside Schell for years at the BIA and reflects on his skills as a leader and the ability to make Haliburton feel like home.

"Luke's leadership and quiet, sometimes even a little obscure, humour combined to make my years as the BIA administrator both fun and rewarding," said Stelter. "His vision was clear and his commitment and dedication to the community were always an inspiration. Luke believes in a vibrant downtown and always demonstrated a genuine love for everything Haliburton Highlands. He is a gift to all, and I will miss his welcoming smile and presence in town. I wish him many wonderful life experiences ahead, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him and the other members of the BIA executive. There was no better way to feel at home in Haliburton."

see FEARNEY page 11

Fearrey applauds Schell's years of commitment

from page 10

Mayor Murray Fearrey applauds Schell's commitment to the BIA and the longevity of his tenure. "It's one of the volunteer positions that takes a lot of time and advice, and Luke met that challenge," he said.

Schell credits many people for his successful tenure at the BIA, most impor-

tantly his spouse Shelley and his family, which includes two daughters and three wonderful grandchildren. He says their love and support were instrumental in building his business and his passion for the downtown.

Looking ahead, Schell believes he is leaving the BIA in a healthy position, both financially and literally, with a strong nine member committee at the helm. If

he had any parting words of wisdom to share to the next incoming chair, it would simply be this, "look after your people."

"Don't think that because you're a leader of committee that it's all about you," said Schell. "The whole committee is what will keep the BIA healthy."

The BIA's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in Dysart et al council chambers.

Schell's final committee meeting with the executive took place on January 24th and he admits it was bittersweet.

"There was a couple of times I was feeling misty eyed," he said. "It's been incredibly satisfying ... everyone around that table is trying to make things better around here for everybody. It's so uplifting."

Repair Café returns to Haliburton County

ANGELICA INGRAM

Special to the Echo

Have a broken toaster that no longer toasts? Frustrated that your CD player won't play your favourite tunes? Don't toss them away, but rather bring them to the Repair Café!

SIRCH Community Services is excited to announce the return of Repair Café, an initiative that brings together volunteers and the community to fix broken items for free.

The first Repair Café will take place on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SIRCH Training Bistro at 49 Maple Ave., in Haliburton.

Launched in 2020, Repair Café helps people repair broken items such as small household appliances, toys, electronics, garden tools and more. A team of volunteers with an expertise in making things

work will be on hand to assess your item and get it working again.

The decision to bring back this popular event came from a desire to keep items out of the landfill while creating a sense of community, said SIRCH executive director Gena Robertson.

"We have become such a disposable society, and Repair Cafes are about encouraging people to hang onto their things, and repair them rather than throw them away. The Cafes support what we do at Thrift Warehouse and support the reduce, reuse, recycle philosophy," she said.

When SIRCH launched Repair Café in January, 2020, the first event was a great success, with 24 volunteers in attendance and close to 50 items brought in to be fixed. Only eight items were not fixable, resulting in an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from attendees. The second event in March 2020 saw an even greater turnout, with nearly 90 visitors

and more than 50 items brought in, with only three not able to be fixed.

"The feedback from the visitors was that it was an outstanding initiative on many levels," said SIRCH training coordinator Dianne Woodcock. "They had the opportunity to learn about the resources in our community, the powerful and positive impact on the landfills, and in some cases, how to fix their own items. For everyone, it was a chance to learn about what items could be fixed that they did not think of before."

When COVID hit, Repair Cafes were put on hold...until now. Organizers are hopeful the upcoming event will see a similar positive response while making the public aware of the benefits of keeping items out of the landfills.

"SIRCH Repair Cafe wants to help reduce the mountains of waste that our landfills experience. We throw away piles of stuff every day," said Woodcock. "This includes items which practically have

nothing wrong with them, and could be easily repaired and used. Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten that so many things can be repaired and SIRCH Repair Café wants to change that."

Aside from the environmental benefits, the event also aims to connect neighbours with their neighbours, while exchanging skills and expertise. Woodcock explained, "Repair Cafe is also meant to put neighbours in touch with each other in a new way and to discover that a lot of know-how and practical skills can be found close to home. If you repair a bike, a CD player or a pair of trousers and can share that expertise with an unfamiliar neighbour, it creates a whole new community outlook. Repairs can save money and resources. Repair Cafes' can show how much fun repairing things can be, and often easier than they thought."

For more information contact SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or via email at info@sirch.on.ca.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO
ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 2023
- TIME: 9:05 am
- LOCATION: TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AS AN ELECTRONIC PUBLIC MEETING ONLY

Applications:

Lands of Lewis

- Purpose and Effect: The application will rezone the subject lands from Tourist Commercial (CT) Zone and Waterfront Residential (WR4) Zone to Waterfront Residential Type 3-XX (WR3-XX) exception zones to recognize the minimum lot frontages, lot area and intended use of the subject properties.
- Location: 4659 & 4661 Kennisis Lake Road, and legally described as Part Lot 18 Concession 2, Plan 367, Lot 26 & 27, Plan 19R-5159, Part 1, Part 66, Plan 402, Part East Kennisis Drive, Part 1 & 2, Plan 19R-7894. In the Geographic Township of Havelock, Municipality of Dysart et al.
- Proposed Zoning is a condition of a concurrent severance application (File No. H-047-22) under the Planning Act for the proposed severed and retained lots.

There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@Dysartetal.ca.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: about this application, including a copy of the draft by-law, is available by contacting Kris Orsan, Senior at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department during regular office hours, Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7th day of February 2023.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca



PRHC
Peterborough Regional
Health Centre

Would you like to contribute to shaping healthcare delivery in our community and region?

Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) is seeking individuals to become members of the Board of Directors who: (a) reside in one of the four (4) counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes; (b) reflect the diversity of our changing community; and (c) can bring volunteer Board experience and business/professional skills to our governance processes. The Board is seeking strong contributors with an interest in future leadership positions.

The Board

- Governs the affairs of PRHC in line with best practices in the sector
- Advances PRHC's vision, mission and values
- Values and embraces anti-oppression, anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion practices and principles within its governance processes
- Is committed to continuously building a truly inclusive, and safe organization at every level
- Supports the implementation of the 2024-2027 Strategic plan and ensures that all decisions are made in accordance with the Plan
- Reviews and approves PRHC's Annual Operating Plan
- Provides oversight to quality of care
- Fosters regional relationships needed for seamless care

All applications are welcome, in particular from persons with a background in clinical (professional staff and allied health included), human resources, patient/family experience, construction/facility management, and quality of care. Before applying, please visit our website at www.prhc.on.ca and click on **About PRHC/Board of Directors** for more detail.

How to Apply:

Submit an application along with a resume by February 17, 2023 to the Chair, Nominating Sub-Committee, c/o Margaret Clark, Senior Executive Assistant, Administration, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, One Hospital Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7C6, or email mclark@prhc.on.ca

Guided by you · Doing it right · Depend on us | www.prhc.on.ca | 

Recruitment effort makes strides at Haliburton health facilities: CEO

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Efforts continue to fill vacant staff positions at Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

Carolyn Plummer, the president and CEO at the health service provider, informed its board of directors in her January report that dire staffing situations continue at many health care organizations throughout Ontario.

"There have been no real changes in the situation since the last update," she said. "HHHS continues to work on recruitment and retention of health care workers and its current staff."

The organization advertised vacancies in local newspapers last fall, she said. And there's been some promising leads toward attracting new professionals to the region.

Plummer said she hopes to re-start the CEO Coffee Talk initiative. It was popular before the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown in early 2020.

"This initiative provides staff with an informal opportunity to connect with the CEO, ask questions, and bring suggestions forward," she said. "I am looking forward to connecting with staff again through this venue and, in particular, I would like to further explore some of the feedback we received through the recruitment and retention survey."

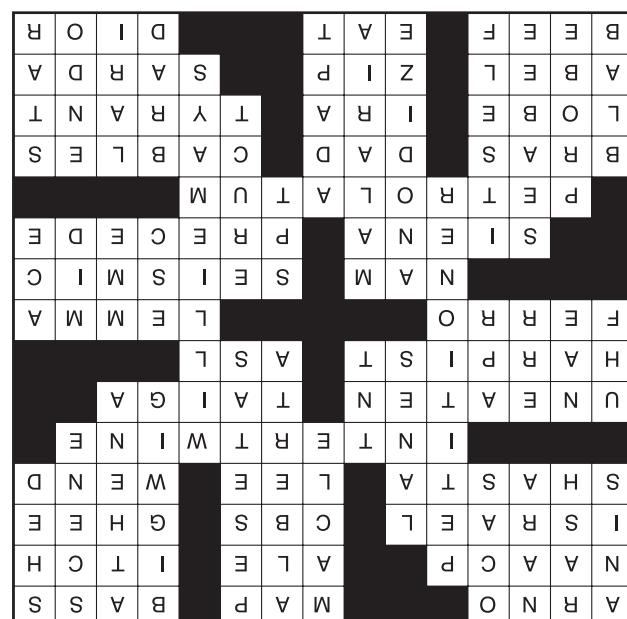
In her report, Plummer said there are signs the triple threat of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, and COVID-19 has peaked, but hospitals are still struggling.

The new variant of COVID-19 dubbed XBB.1.5 has been identified and is reportedly one of the most easily transmitted variants. Even if symptoms may not be as severe, high transmission of the virus has caused problems for the healthcare system and hospital capacity.

"HHHS will continue to maintain its COVID-19 precautions and do what it can to be prepared to manage higher patient volumes," she said and added that two COVID-19 outbreaks at HHHS have recently ended.

The outbreak in the in-patient department, which began on Dec. 18, 2022 and involved nine patients, was declared over on Jan. 3.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



The outbreak on the lower level of Hyland Crest Long-Term Care started Dec. 16, 2022 and culminated Jan. 10. It entailed 17 cases among residents and three staff members were infected.

"Managing an outbreak, particularly while dealing with surges in patients and the need to admit patients to the Emergency Department, takes a significant toll on the team, patients, and residents," Plummer said.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all the efforts of our team in bringing these outbreaks to a close, as well as for the cooperation and understanding of patients, residents, and their families."

There have been some staffing changes at the region's two long-term care facilities. Tina Amodeo is the permanent

assistant director of care at Highland Wood LTC. Recruitment continues for a director of care/administrator for the home.

At Hyland Crest LTC, Tracy Salvatori has accepted the assistant director of care position.

Plummer thanked Dr. Tina Stephenson for her incredible work at Highland Wood LTC over the past 22 years. Stephenson will retire as the medical director of the home on April 1.

Dr. Michael Armstrong will take over as the interim medical director at Highland Wood while a permanent replacement is recruited. Armstrong has been working with HHHS for more than 20 years and is also the medical director for Hyland Crest LTC.

Snow Shuffle plans are underway

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper

754-2278

Once again plans are underway for the annual Snow Shuffle on Feb 25. It all begins at the Community Centre with registration and guide for the route of the day, the fun continues after the ride is complete ending with dinner at the centre and ends with a dance. Prizes are given for various aspects of the run, many of them related to sports events in equipment or snowmobiles. In case

you missed the Come and Sit together item, you may be interested to note that at SIRCH Café, a person or persons who are there to listen can hear you out about unresolved grief or trauma you've never cared to tell anyone about. Text 705-749-6145.

An aside, I noted with interest that Owen Nicholls was in the cast of *Grease*. If curling doesn't take up all of his spare time perhaps he can give little theatre his attention.

When I was a teacher there was a difficulty in pronouncing the letter "r" which I had to help some youngsters to overcome. Now I realize it's not huge, but many an adult including radio announcers, seem to have the same difficulty when it comes to pronouncing Feb-ruary. Just wondering!



After school smiles

Kate Wilson and her mom participate in the Haliburton County Public Library's Mini Makers after school program on Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Dysart Library. The program teaches STEAM, science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through tech toys that develop skills like creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking. Mini Makers is offered from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Dysart Library on the first and third Thursday of each month and at the Minden Hills library on the first Tuesday each month. HCPL also offers their After School Crafts program from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Wilberforce Library on the second Friday of each month. For HCPL's full schedule of events, visit www.haliburtonlibrary.ca/Programs-Events. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Canoe Fm Radio BINGO

Triple Bingo Tuesday, February 14, 2023

See our website for details.

For information and a list of stores selling bingo sheets go to

www.canoefm.com

You can win up to \$800.00 every week!

Bingo License #M819795

CANOE
100.9 FM



Chowing down

Mike Rae, chef and owner of Truss Foodworks Smokehouse, served an array of smoked meat table-side, from smoked brisket to duck wings, at the Hali Cabana event held at Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve on Saturday, Feb. 4. Live entertainment was also provided to guests. /LAURA SMITH Staff



Haliburton Rotary welcomes new Rotarian

The Rotary Club of Haliburton inducted their newest member, Chuck Wheeler, to their club during their regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2. Wheeler was welcomed by Haliburton Rotary president Ursula Devolin and John Beachli, right. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff



Home Games S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

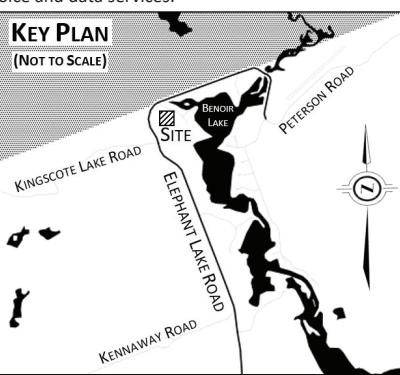
WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Saturday, Feb. 11 @ 4:00 p.m.
vs Stouffville Spirit

Sunday, Feb 12 @ 3:00 pm
vs Collingwood Blues

Monday, Feb 20 @ 1:00 p.m.
vs Lindsay Muskies

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Aging Together as Community – a conversation

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

There is only one constant in life, and that is aging. No matter what, it's there, and it always will be. Aging can be a blessing; an opportunity to learn longer, to live longer. Yet the concept of aging is one that is often swept under the rug. "It's become a taboo topic," said David Buwalda, the facilitator for the Aging Together as a Community conversation held on Jan. 28 at the Fish Hatchery. "The more we talk about it, the more we can celebrate it, and we can make a difference."

Aging Together As Community conversations were formed when two eager organizations combined their ideas; The Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition, led by Bonnie Roe, and the ReThink Policy Change group, led by David Barnes.

"We clicked right away," said Roe, "and we both knew we wanted to discuss ways where we can respect our elders, and facilitate a cultural change."

The group was not formed as an advocacy group or a political group, rather, it is navigated by the purpose of providing individuals with the opportunity to age respectfully, on their own terms. "There are opportunities to explore aging in their own homes and what that looks like, as well as alternative long term care homes," said Roe.

Dave Buwalda works for ReThink Policy Change, and has dedicated time and energy into facilitating conversations about the worthwhile focus of aging together. He said that the session he facilitated on Jan. 28 was thoughtful, insightful, and inspiring. He noted that the energy in the room was positive and fairly



Dr. Barbara Clive, a geriatrician from the GTA, provided an in-depth overview of dementia for attendees at the Aging Together as a Community conversation, held on Jan. 28. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

light-hearted, but he worked diligently to create a space that felt safe and comfortable, so that participants could freely discuss a topic that is often taboo. "It can be a stressful topic," he told the Times, "but I think it's very important that we break down that wall, and start having these conversations."

The session was split into two major parts: firstly, an informational presentation by Dr. Barbara Clive on dementia, followed by a break-out session in which participants could openly discuss the concept of aging, and the gaps they could identify for aging respectfully in places they felt comfortable, seen, and heard.

"We were lucky to have Dr. Barbara Clive," noted Roe, who shared that Clive was the sister of one of the organizing committee members, and a cottage Haliburton county local. Dr. Clive is a geriatrician, and focuses on older patients who experience dementia, Alzheimers, Parkinsons, as well as individuals who have

had falls or identified memory deficits. She provided an in-depth presentation on the background of these diseases, as well as areas where individuals could manage their relationship with these diseases, such as social contact, diet, and exercise.

"One thing we have learned is that dementia care is quite different from standard long term care," said Buwalda, "so by doing the work and bringing these resources, it means we are having these conversations so that we can offer the support where it is needed."

After Dr. Clive wrapped up, the nearly 100 participants in the session were split into groups, and tasked with the question of "what do you want in order to age in Haliburton?" This seed of a question blossomed into a series of conversations, ideas, and further questions. One of the major takeaways was the need for younger people to get involved.

"We had this idea, where every member of the group will bring one young

person to the next meetings," chuckled Buwalda. Roe echoed the sentiment. "This conversation has meaning for everyone, and there are ways to change things if you really believe in it," she said.

Both Buwalda and Roe shared that aging is a reality that impacts everyone, and by removing the "taboo" of aging, and normalizing the concept with kids, teenagers, and young adults, it would alleviate the scare factor of growing old, and open up the door to a plethora of healthy conversations that would provide clarity and insight for all those experiencing the natural process of aging.

Roe also noted that they did receive an immense amount of support from local media, as well as representation of two members from Minden Council; Coun. Pam Sayne and Coun. Shirley Johannessen. She told the Echo that this level of involvement is instrumental in enacting tangible policies and actions that will assist community members as they age. "This is a community effort," she said, "we want to show that there are creative alternatives to long term care homes, and yes, it takes creativity and energy, but we have that."

To get involved with these conversations in any capacity, Aging Together as Community has a Facebook page, where all are welcome to discuss the topic. "This is a group of interested people," said Buwalda, "we are a group of partners trying to figure out what works best for our community." The next community meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Guelph Community Centre, and will be a hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Bonnie Roe at 705 457 6579 or email hhlcccoalition@gmail.com.

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Peacefully at the residence on Monday morning, January 30, 2023, in her 89th year. Janet was the only child of Jessie and Harry Carbray, both born in Scotland, emigrated in 1926. Beloved wife of the late Ed McGrath (2009). Dear mother of Kim and Ian Wilson, Beth and Tony Frith, Cathy and Philip Sally, Scott Murray, Ron Murray, and the late Tom McGrath (2015). Caring Grandmother to Ken, Jan, Steve, Doug, Madison, Sylvain, Jenny, Celeste and Trevor, Hugh, Michael, Richard, John, much missed Benjamin Frith (2005) and unlamented Les Wilson (2011). Proud Great-Grandma or GG to Mark, Ben, Roni, Ian, Liam, Jonathan, Madison, Kaylin, Jayse, Kamryn, Electra, Bodhi, Maeve, Nicholas, Tristan, Jayda, and Keira. Predeceased by sister-in-law Margaret McGrath (S.S.J.). Missed by Gary and Margaret McGrath and family cousin, Marie Marozzo and her family. Cousins in Scotland, the Miles family in England, Janet McCabe, and the Harris family of Glasgow, Scotland. The family wishes to say a huge thank you to all of the Nurses, Personal Support Workers, and Doctors for the wonderful care and kindness shown to Mum during her stay in Haliburton Hospital. And a special thank you to April down in Lindsay and Beth, Cheryl, Nicole and Andrea.

Private Graveside Service

At Mum's request, no funeral or viewing will take place. After cremation, her ashes will go with Ed's in a place of the family's choosing. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a children's charity, if you wish to remember her. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy.#118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

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Municipalities face up to 21% reduction in provincial grants

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The numbers are in, and although the provincial funding cuts to municipalities aren't as bad as once feared, local governments will have to scramble to cope with the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue.

All municipalities started the new year with a letter from the provincial government outlining its reduction in funding. The numbers vary widely, from 10% in Monmouth to 21% in Anson, Hindon and Minden based on a perplexing accounting formula.

Adding to the problems created by the shortfall is the government's announcement it will not begin forwarding its grant money until June. Traditionally, municipalities started receiving transfer payments in March or April. The later date will probably result in cash flow difficulties.

Most municipalities are responding by hitting the books, going line by line through their operating budgets to see where money can be saved.

There seems to be no overall trend in the cuts. Some of the smaller municipalities were insulated from drastic reductions; some were hit as hard as the county's larger municipalities.

However, it should be remembered that provincial funding accounts for roughly 20% of a municipality's income. "Any loss of funding is serious but I don't think (the announcements) are quite as dramatic as they first appeared," says Stanhope Reeve Jock Mavor. While committed to not increasing taxes, he notes the cuts to his municipality represent 4% of the overall budget, or \$30 on a \$600 tax bill.

Here's a brief look at what each municipality will have to do without in the next fiscal year:

Minden: a 21% reduction, or \$93,000 (includes unconditional grants and roads)

Bicroft: 21% or \$18,200

Cardiff: 19% or \$32,000

Dysart et al: 17% or \$142,000

Glamorgan: 18% or \$26,100

Lutterworth: 18% or \$28,400

Monmouth: 10.3% or \$17,550

Sherborne et al: 12% or \$17,200

Snowdon: 11% or \$11,000

Stanhope: 18% or \$40,300

It is also important to remember supplementary roads funding is drying up. Small municipalities especially have been dependent on this funding to buy equipment, which costs tens of thousands of dollars. As clerk Roger Hogan of Cardiff says, "the Ministry of Transportation

See POLITICIANS page 6



THE JOYS OF WINTER: While her mother and other women "on the hill" overlooking Haliburton hammered signs in trees welcoming home Bonnie Amson, who returned on Friday from a year in Australia, Siobhan Creelman took advantage of the snow to toboggan down the hill behind her house.

Construction slows down across the county – with a few exceptions

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Construction workers – go east! That seems to be one of the few places in the county where there was an increase in construction last year.

In 1995, there was a general decrease in the number of building permits issued by the 10 municipalities, as well as a decrease in the value of the con-

struction. One exception is Cardiff, where they enjoyed an increase in the construction of new dwellings.

Stanhope also witnessed a small increase, thanks to people adding onto their existing dwellings. But unlike Cardiff, the number of new dwellings in Stanhope decreased.

"I was amazed," says Cardiff's chief building official, Dale Shannick, of the increase in permits. In 1994, he issued 76 permits, including eight new dwellings. In 1995, 12 new dwellings were built and most were valued at more than \$100,000.

In Stanhope, a big jump in the number of additions and renovations accounted for the small surge in statistics. There were 45 additions in 1995 compared to 36 in 1994 and double the number (six) of renovations. The number of new cottages remained constant at seven, but the number of dwellings dropped from nine to four.

There wasn't a major drop in construction values in Anson, Hindon and Minden, even

though the number of new homes and cottages dropped by almost a third. In 1994, there were 16 new cottages with a total value of \$780,000. Last year, there were only 11 new cottages, but they were much more expensive ones, with a total value of \$890,000.

Likewise, the new homes seem to be worth more. The total value for the 15 new homes built in 1994 was \$1.1-million. Only 11 homes were built in 1995, but their combined value was \$940,000.

Most of the other numbers stayed the same.

"People are definitely watching their pennies," says AHM building inspector Doug Schell. Instead of building a new place, people are fixing up their existing one.

Schell and Ernie Hills of Snowdon noticed an increase in the number of pre-fabricated homes, which are less expensive for the consumer but provide few local jobs.

"We really flipped back to the 1993 levels," Hills says. "There

See FEW page 2

More user fees likely at Stanhope airport

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

While it's never pleasant to trim \$10,000 from your annual spending habits, the Stanhope municipal airport will find the task relatively easy compared to next year's challenge of cutting a further \$10,000.

The provincial government previously helped "top up" the airport's operating deficit to a maximum of \$20,000 a year. This year, that amount will be

reduced by half, and totally eliminated in 1997.

Where's the \$20,000 to come from?

Airport manager Mike Carey says the airport, which already runs on a lean budget, especially when compared to other airports, began cutting costs three years ago in preparation for a reduction of funds. That process will be accelerated. As well, the airport plans to increase its revenue from outside sources.

"It's unfortunate this is happening but we'll be okay," he says. "We've been bringing in more revenue and not spending as much every year for the past three years... We'll be in good shape compared to other airports (which have relied more heavily on provincial funds)."

The airport is looking at charging a fee for any revenue-generating flight. There might also be other types of user fees.

"The pilots are very helpful

See STANHOPE page 4



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\$239,000



GREAT LOCATION 0.408 ACRES
 MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. MLS# 40343482

LAKEVIEW STREET
\$159,900



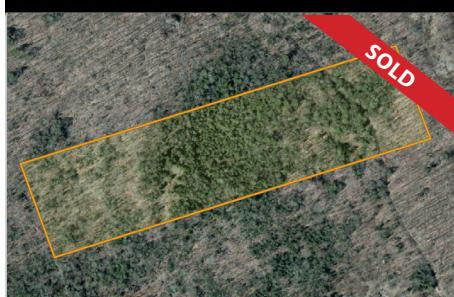
PRIME LOCATION 1.47 ACRES UNDERGROUND HYDRO
 MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. MLS# 40364799

TOWER ROAD
\$95,000



PRIVATE 2.19 ACRES
OFF-GRID MLS# 40343517

TORY HILL
\$35,000



OFF-GRID PRIVATE 10.018 ACRES
ATV ACCESS ONLY MLS# 40364071

BUILDING AND LAND
\$298,000

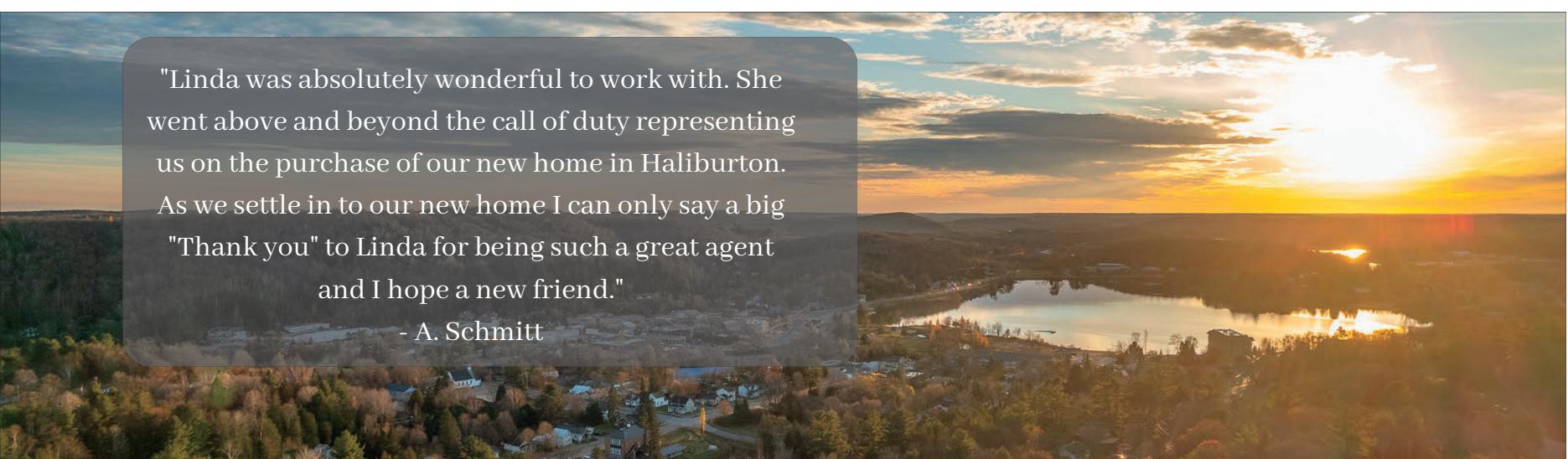


COMMERCIAL 5.129 ACRES
 2,000 SQ.FT WORKSHOP MLS# 40310596

BAUMGARTNER
(B|R)
REALTY GROUP

"Linda was absolutely wonderful to work with. She went above and beyond the call of duty representing us on the purchase of our new home in Haliburton. As we settle in to our new home I can only say a big "Thank you" to Linda for being such a great agent and I hope a new friend."

- A. Schmitt



Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner

(705) 457.3461

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